

"For Upper Canada transcripts have been received to 1829, covering the period of Sir Peregrine Maitland's administration and the beginning of Sir John Colborne's.

"To judge by the current histories of Upper Canada, the knowledge of the domestic politics of that province at the beginning of this century appears to be very limited, only a few vague generalities being given.

"It has, therefore, been thought desirable to publish at some length the correspondence during the administration of President Grant, and part of that of Lieutenant-Governor Gore. The leader of the opposition to the government, appears to have been Mr. Justice Thorpe, who is referred to in no laudatory terms in the histories of the province."

The sentiments expressed by this "hot, political partisan," his fiery attack on General Hunter and the comments of Chief Justice Allcock on his fiery colleague, afford quite a study in the present day.

In Lower Canada, Sir Robert Shore Milnes seems anxious to increase the crown revenues, from properties belonging to it, and advocates the extinction of the feudal tenure of lands.

There appears to have been a considerable amount of friction between Chief Justice Osgoode and the Lieutenant-Governor, the latter being supported by all the executive councillors.

A conversation between Monsgr. Plessis and Attorney-General Sewell, in which Queen Mary gets some hard hits, is published in this report.

1893.—The report for 1893, opens with a letter, dated 16th November, 1807, on Indian affairs, received by Sir John Johnson, from Herman Witrius Ryland, civil secretary to Sir James Henry Craig.

As this clever functionary's correspondence occupies considerable space in our colonial archives, a short sketch of his career may not be out of place.

Herman Witrius Ryland had landed in Quebec in 1795, as secretary to Lord Dorchester. His scholarly training, brilliant parts, general information and attachment to British institutions, as well as his social position, gave him the ear of every governor, (except Sir George Prevost) for close on twenty years.

It was during the stormy period of the war between England and the United States that the Hon. Mr. Ryland, with the advice of the able Chief Justice Sewell, was in reality entrusted with the helm of state.

As the historian Robert Christie observes, Ryland was considered the "Fountain Head of Power." Probably never was he more powerful than under the administration of Sir James H. Craig. His Excellency despatched him to England, charged with a public mission three fold in its scope, the ostensible object of which was, 1st, To get the Imperial Government to amend or suspend the constitution. 2nd, To render the government independent of the people by appropriating towards it the